

crowd. A few protestors threw rocks in response to the attacks, which gave state-controlled media a chance to claim that protestors started the violence and urge "honorable," that is, Muslim, Egyptians to help the soldiers.

While I expect that kind of deception from Egyptian state-run media, I am appalled by The New York Times' characterization of the killings as "sectarian violence." For the Times, Christians are only victims if they endure violence without uttering the merest peep in protest. If they protest or try to defend themselves, however feebly, the Times paints them as the moral equivalent of their persecutors.

The situation in Egypt has become so dire that one Coptic bishop compares it to a "dark tunnel of violence." Quoting the Apostle Paul, he writes that he and his flock are "hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed . . . perplexed but not lost, persecuted but not forsaken, struck down but not destroyed."

While they pray for the victims and the offenders, it's our task to make sure they are not forsaken, which is what all the euphoria over the "Arab Spring" threatens to do.

Lost in the buzz over democracy, Twitter, and Facebook, was any recognition that ousting dictators and establishing democracy are means, not ends. In other words, it doesn't matter if you replace the rule of dictators with popular rule if, in the end, Christians and other minorities become targets for persecution and violence.

Our founding fathers, when they set out to "establish justice, insure domestic tranquility . . . [and] promote the general welfare," knew the dangers of an unchecked majority. That's why our Constitution is filled with checks and balances—between the people and the government, and between branches of government.

The "Arab Spring" has not resulted in greater justice and increased tranquility for Middle Eastern Christians. As John L. Allen wrote in the National Catholic Reporter, "many analysts wonder whether Christianity will be the first victim of the new order taking shape" in the Middle East.

There's no reason, as writer Rod Dreher reminds us, to assume that democracy and religious tolerance go hand-in-hand. On the contrary, recent history suggests that what the so-called "people" often want is to mistreat the "others" in their midst.

Now, there is little standing between them and what they want. If Christians resist, they are run over by armored vehicles and blamed for their fate. While God has not forsaken them, the world that cheered on the Arab crowds last Spring seems intent on doing so.

#### NATIONAL INFANT MORTALITY AWARENESS MONTH

**HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 27, 2011*

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, last month was National Infant Mortality Awareness Month and was established to highlight the tragic occurrences of infant deaths across the nation and to raise awareness about those programs that can help save lives and ensure our children are healthy. As we know, infant mortality, the rate at which babies die before their first birthday, is an important measure of the nation's health and a worldwide indicator of health status and social well-being.

Although the overall infant mortality rate (IMR) in the United States (U.S.) steadily declined for several decades, it has leveled off for the past several years. In 2009, the rate of infant deaths before age one for the U.S. was 6.4 per 1,000 live births. Unfortunately, the U.S. IMR is higher than the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) average and that of most European countries.

Though the rate for Maryland has dropped from 7.2 to 6.7, the rates throughout the state remain astoundingly high. Last year, the infant mortality rate for Prince George's County was 9.0 or 22% of all infant deaths in the state of Maryland. Montgomery County realized a decline from 5.5 the previous year to 4.3 this year, but still had the fourth highest number of deaths in Maryland (behind Baltimore City, Prince George's County, and Baltimore County).

In our nation, minority communities are especially affected by higher IMR. For example, across the country African Americans have higher incidences of infant mortality than do their white counterparts. In Maryland, the IMR for African American mothers was 11.8 compared to 4.1 for white mothers. These statistics bring to light the staggering disparities between race, ethnicity, age, education, and socio-economic levels.

National Infant Mortality Month gives us an opportunity to raise public awareness about the levels at which this problem continues to affect our communities, and to educate women about ways they may reduce infant mortality with good health care during the mother's pregnancy and the early years of the child's life. Research indicates that a number of federal programs may reduce the IMR. Programs such as the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant and Healthy Start are vital programs tasked with bringing awareness to factors that contribute to the nation's high infant mortality rate, including low birth weight, congenital abnormalities, and sudden infant death syndrome. With the support of local organizations and clinics like the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services and the Suitland Health and Wellness Center, we can advance a number of strategies to reduce infant mortality and help mothers and children live long and healthy lives.

I will continue to support and bring awareness to programs that increase access to health care and improve the quality of prenatal and newborn care to prevent the causes of infant mortality. As our nation recovers from these difficult economic times and families may experience gaps in health coverage due to job loss, transitions, and financial instability, it is especially vital that we continue to support adequate funding for these programs. We need to ensure that our babies get a healthy start to celebrate their first birthday and beyond.

I am pleased that even though the House of Representatives did not recognize National Infant Mortality Awareness Month by passing a resolution, the Senate did. By doing so, it brought much needed attention and awareness to the importance of reducing our infant mortality rate.

ROBERT B. COWDREY TRIBUTE

**HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 27, 2011*

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to rise in commendation of Sgt. Robert B. Cowdrey who served our country with great honor and pride. Sgt. Cowdrey gave his life for our country on October 13, while attempting a helicopter rescue of his fellow soldiers under fire.

Sgt. Cowdrey was raised in La Junta, Colorado. He graduated from La Junta High School in 1990. He was a devoted outdoorsman, who enjoyed bow hunting. Cowdrey enlisted in the Army in 2003 and was serving his third tour of duty in Afghanistan at the time of his death. Sgt. Cowdrey's duties included flying into active combat zones to deliver medical assistance and rescue troops while under fire. He was highly decorated for his heroic service, earning the Bronze Star and two army commendations for valor.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sgt. Cowdrey, a selfless American hero whose bravery and sacrifice are examples of what makes this country great. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Jill, their three sons, Justin, Jacob and Nathan, and the entire Cowdrey family.

#### COMMEMORATING FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 27, 2011*

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Filipino American History Month. We have, as a nation, commemorated October as Filipino American History month since 1988. The legislature in my home state of California also recognizes this month. California has long historical ties with Filipino Americans, and our state is home to over half of the Filipino population of the United States.

This month is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the rich culture and history of Filipino Americans, who have contributed so much both to California and to the United States. I'm pleased that recently there has been some legislative acknowledgment of their military contributions. Just this month in California, Governor Jerry Brown signed Assembly Bill 199 into law, which would encourage the inclusion of the role of Filipinos in World War II in social studies curricula. Over 250,000 Filipinos fought with the U.S. in World War II. Their valiant service was largely uncompensated and unrecognized until recently.

I'm hopeful that my colleagues will take a moment to recognize the Filipino American community. This country is a nation of immigrants, and we are so much richer for the contributions that Americans of every background have made, and will continue to make as we move forward.

# HONORING THE LIFE OF JERRY WORKMAN

## HON. FRANCISCO "QUICO" CANSECO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Mr. CANSECO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Jerry Workman. Brother Workman, as he was called by the almost 5,000 students he taught, was a beloved science teacher for over 40 years at Pecos High School in Pecos, Texas. After battling colon and abdominal cancer, Mr. Workman passed away on October 6, 2011. However, his memory will live on through the thousands of students he mentored and inspired through his love of teaching.

Jerry Samuel Workman, Sr. was born on March 7, 1940 in Angel-Flatts, Texas. Mr. Workman moved to Pecos in 1965 to pursue a job opportunity after serving in the U.S. Army and the National Guard. Unable to find the job he was seeking, he was invited to apply for an opening as a teacher at Pecos High School and teach "for a year or two." Forty-six years later, he was still teaching. Over the years Mr. Workman selflessly taught thousands of students and coached numerous UIL Science teams; drove countless miles in a school bus, and helped students find scholarships to attend college.

When Jerry Workman was diagnosed with cancer, his family set up a Facebook page to update past and present students on his health. The page called, "Jerry Workman taught me more than Chemistry," has become populated with friends, family, and former students sharing memories of Brother Workman. Jerry Workman dedicated his life to serving the youth of Pecos, Texas. His passing is a great loss to not only the community, but the entire State of Texas.

IN HONOR OF MR. HERB THOMAS

## HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Herb Thomas, a photojournalist and news videographer for Cleveland's WJW, who is being honored by the Press Club of Cleveland with the 2011 Chuck Heaton Award.

Herb attended Thomas Edison High School in Cleveland, Ohio before joining WJW in 1969 as a set designer. Throughout the years Herb has worked in a number of capacities for the station including director of print operations, member of the studio camera crew, photojournalist and videographer. He is also responsible for creating WJW's sign off programs "Meditation" and "Celebration."

Herb is a local celebrity in Cleveland and played "Soul Man" on the Big Chuck and Little John Show for many years. He has been featured in PM Magazine, listed in the "Who's Who" in Success Magazine and named "One of Cleveland's Most Interesting People" in Cleveland Magazine. Herb is also the founder and president of thomvisions and of the performing arts choir, "Prayer Warriors."

Herb has been honored in the past as well for his quality of work and dedication to jour-

nalism. He has won 12 Emmys, two International Gabriel awards and documentary honors by the Ohio Society of Professional Journalists. Herb was also inducted in the Ohio Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 2000.

In addition to being inducted in the Cleveland Journalism Hall of Fame, Class of 2011, Herb is this year's recipient of the Chuck Heaton Award. The Chuck Heaton Award honors an individual who best exemplifies the qualities of the Plain Dealer's longtime sports writer and columnist, Chuck Heaton. Mr. Heaton was known for his dedication to journalism and community.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating WJW's Herb Thomas as the Press Club of Cleveland names him the 2011 Chuck Heaton Award recipient.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 812, I had district work that required my presence. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING MR. MAURICE VEISSI

## HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Maurice "Moe" Veissi, an outstanding realtor and person who has supported the Miami community for over 40 years. Having known Moe for several years, I can attest to his exemplary character and his commitment to his profession and the people he serves.

Moe is the 2011 President-Elect of the National Association of Realtors (NAR), and broker-owner of Veissi & Associates located in Miami, FL. He served on the Strategic Investment Reserve Advisory Board for NAR, also serving as a regional vice president for Region V in 2005. Moe has served on NAR's Board of Directors since 1999, along with numerous NAR committees.

Moe was also elected president of the Florida Association of Realtors (FAR) in 2002, and in 2003 was named "Realtor of the Year". On the local level, he has served as president of the Realtor Association of Greater Miami and The Beaches, and was twice appointed to as the Economic Development Chairman. Active in his community, Moe founded the Silent Angels Charitable Foundation, has coached several youth sports teams and also volunteers for numerous organizations such as Habitat for Humanity.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Mr. Maurice Veissi for his continued service to the Miami community. It will be great to have a model South Floridian representing such a well-respected national organization. He is an exceptional leader for the community, and I am privileged to call him my friend. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this outstanding individual.

IN HONOR OF U.S. ARMY SERGEANT FIRST CLASS HOUSTON M. TAYLOR

## HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Army Sergeant First Class Houston M. Taylor who was killed on October 13, 2011 in Kunar Province, Afghanistan. He was working in support of Operation Enduring Freedom while serving with Delta Company, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division based at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. Sergeant First Class Taylor was posthumously promoted to Sergeant First Class and awarded a Bronze Star and Purple Heart for his actions.

Sergeant First Class Taylor was 25 years old, attended Azle High School, in Azle, Texas, and enlisted in the Army in 2005. His first assignment was to Fort Lewis, Washington, with Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. Sergeant First Class Taylor deployed to Iraq in 2006 and 2008 before deploying to Afghanistan in early 2011. Sergeant Taylor was killed during his third combat tour. He leaves behind his high school sweetheart and wife, Kelsey Rae Taylor, and two young children, Rylan, and Avery.

Sergeant First Class Taylor gallantly and selflessly gave his life in the service of his country when insurgents attacked his unit with small arms fire while they were on foot patrol in Afghanistan. Major Dave Eastburn, a spokesman for the brigade in which Sergeant First Class Taylor served, said Sergeant First Class Taylor "was a warrior, a great leader, and will be truly missed." This affirmation only confirms what his family and friends already knew about Sergeant First Class Taylor. His mother knew from an early age that he was destined for the service and his wife said that "he never complained about anything he had to do" in the Army.

I wish to extend my condolences to Sergeant First Class Taylor's wife, Kelsey Rae, his children, Rylan and Avery, his parents, and all of his family and friends. I hope they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on both this grateful nation and his fellow soldiers.

MAKING PROGRESS ON PAID SICK LEAVE

## HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support employers and businesses that provide paid sick leave to American workers across the country. Workers should be able to take care of themselves or family members who are sick without risking losing their jobs or a day's wages. The businesses in my district have worked closely with the City of Seattle, and particularly Seattle City Councilmember Nick Licata, to be leaders on this issue. I want to commend the City of Seattle for recently adopting paid sick leave for workers, demonstrating direct support for working families